deposited these amounts might have borrowed them and it will be rather curious to tell them to wait till this Council meets. When money has been received in cash from parties and deposited into the Treasury it must be available to the very officer who deposited it to get it back when there is an order for refund by a superior court.

**Mr. President:** I see the force of the observations and I will see that the suggestion is examined.

**Mr. K. Narayana Menon** *(Mulakunnathukvu):* Thank you, Sir.

*Demands put and carried*

**44. Rs. 15 under "9—Registration—T. A. (Cranganur)"**

**Mr. B. V. K. Menon** *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Sir, I move for an additional allotment of Rs. 15 under "9—Registration T. A." (Cranganur). The sanctioned budget allotment under "9—Registration—T. A." in the current year's Cranganur Budget is only Rs. 22. Out of this a sum of Rs. 18—15—0 has already been spent towards the enhanced Daily Aallowance. the journeys of the District Registrar for the inspection of join Stock Companies, etc. There are some more Joint Stock Companies to be inspected and clerks may also have to perform some tours during the remaining part of the year. A sum of Rs. 15 more is therefore required to meet the requirements of the year. No savings are expected under any of the other heads for reappropriation. Hence this additional allotment of Rs. 15 is required.

*Demand put and carried*

**45. Rs. 120 under "12—Law and Justice—B-Civil Justice T. A. (Cranganur)"**

**Mr. B. V. K. Menon** *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Sir, I move for an additional allotment of Rs. 120 under "12—Law and Justice B-Civil Justice T. A. Cranganur". Owing to the increase in the Daily Allowance the expenditure up-to-date under "12—Law and Justice B. Civil Justice, T. A." in the Cranganur Budget has come to Rs. 255-3-0 this far. The budget provision under the head is Rs. 300 only. Hence the balance available will not be enough for the remaining part of the year. No reappropriation is also possible. An additional allotment of Rs. 120 is, therefore, required. I request the House may be pleased to vote the grant.

*Demand put and carried*

**46. Rs.110 under "18—Sanitation and Conservancy—Dearness Allowance(Cranganur)"**

**Mr. B. V. K. Menon** *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Sir, I move for an additional allotment of Rs. 110 under "18—Sanitation and Conservancy—Dearness Allowance (Cranganur)" by transfer from "17—Vaccination—Miscellaneous". The additional allotment is required on account of the enhanced dearness allowance sanctioned. I request that the House may be pleased to sanction the amount.

*Demand put and carried*

**47. Rs. 50—8—0 under 18—Sanitation and Conservancy—Dearness Allowance (Cranganur)"**

**Mr. B. V. K. Menon** *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Sir, I move for an additional allotment of Rs. 50—8—0 under "18—Sanitation and Conservancy—Dearness Allowance (Cranganur)" by transfer from "17—Vaccination—Establishment". The reason is the same as for the one just now moved. I pray that the House may be pleased to grant the demand.

*Demand put and carried*

**48. Rs. 12,386 under "9—(c)—Betelnuts, Tea and Coffee—Establishment"**

**49. Rs. 2,640 under "9—(c)—Betelnuts, Tea and Coffee—Travelling Allowance"**

**50. Rs. 5,256 under "9—(c)—Betelnuts, Tea and Coffee—Dearness Allowance"**

**51. Rs. Rs. 200 under "9—(c)—Betelnuts, Tea and Coffee—Duty Allowance to the Personal Assistant to the Excise Commissioner"**

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**52. Rs. 570 under "9—(c)—Betelnuts, Tea and Coffee—House Allowance"**

**53. Rs. 678 under "9—(c)—Betelnuts, Tea and Coffee—Local allowance"**

**54. Rs. 9,000 under "9—(c)—Betelnuts, Tea and Coffee—Contingencies"**

**Mr. C. J. Mathew** *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: Sir, I may be allowed to move items 48 to 54 together.

**Mr. President:** Yes.

**Mr. C. J. Mathew** *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: Sir, I rise to move for additional allotment of Rs. 12,386 under "9-(c)-Betelnuts, Tea and Coffee—Establishment", Rs. 2,640—under "9-(c)-Betelnuts, Tea and Coffee—Travelling Allowance", Rs. 5,256—under "9-(c)-Betelnuts, Tea and Coffee—Dearness Allowance", Rs. 200—under "9-(c)-Betelnuts, Tea and Coffee—Duty Allowance to the Personal Assistant to the Excise Commissioner, Rs. 570—under "9-(c)-Betelnuts, Tea and Coffee—House Allowance", Rs. 678—under "9-(c)-Betelnuts, Tea and Coffee Local Allowance", and Rs. 9,000—under "9-(c)-Betelnuts, Tea and Coffee—Contingencies".

For the efficient administration of the Betelnuts, Tea and Coffee (Excise Duty) Proclamation and Rules Government have appointed 3 Assistant Inspectors on Rs. 100-125, 3 Sub-Inspectors on Rs. 60—80, 12 Sub-Inspectors on Rs. 40—60, 18 Petty Officers on Rs. 25 and 36 peons on Rs. 12; besides an Accountant on Rs. 40—60, 2 Clerks on Rs. 25—40, and a peon on Rs. 12 in the Excise Commissioner's Office. A duty allowance of Rs. 25—per mensem has been sanctioned to the Excise Commisioner's Personal Assistant for attending to the increased work. These appointments could not be anticipated at the time of the preparation of the Budget Estimate for 1120 and no provision could be made therein for meeting the different items of expenditure connected with the scheme. Therefore the following additional allotments are required this year under "9 (c) Betelnuts, Tea and Coffee".—

(1) Establishment (including leave allowance of Rs. 302, Rs. 12,386).

(2) Travelling allowance—Rs. 2,640 at the rate of Rs. 33—5—4 for the Assistant Inspectors and at the rate of Rs. 20 for 13 Sub-Inspectors. A lump provision of Rs. 480 is also provided as Travelling Allowance for Petty Officers and peons.

(3) Dearness allowance Rs. 5,256.

(4) Duty Allowance to Personal Assistant to the Excise Commissioner—Rs. 200, Rs. 25 per mensem for 8 months.

(5) House Allowance—Rs. 570. This is for giving house allowance at the rate of Rs. 10 to the Assistant Inspectors and Rs. 5 to the 13 Sub-Inspectors. This allowance is not necessary in the case of the two Sub-Inspectors posted to the hills where the Estate will provide free office accommodation for them.

(6) Local Allowance—Rs. 678. This is for special tract allowance to the 2 Sub-Inspectors, 2 Petty Officers and 4 peons posted to the hills.

(7) Contingencies—Rs. 9,000.

The details under contingencies are—

| | | Rs. |
|---|---|---|
| (a) Uniform | .. | 3,000 |
| (b) Furniture | .. | 1,550 |
| (c) Service Labels | .. | 1,020 |
| (d) Office expenses | .. | 520 |
| (e) Miscellaneous | .. | 265 |
| (f) Printing Charges | .. | 2,545 |
| (g) Refunds | .. | 100 |
| | | 9,000 |

Total amount required is Rs. 30,730.

*Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government in this connection the difficulty which the arecanut grower in the State is labouring under in connection with this taxation and also the difficulties to get transport facilities and other marketing facilities for the encouragement of this industry. I may remind the

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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Government that I raised this questinn of transport difficulties during the Budget Session of last year and the Government promised that they will take the necessary steps to move the authorities concerned to raise the rank of railway priority for arecanut. In addition to that soon after the Betelnut Duty Proclamation was issued in the earlier part of this year there was a state-wide agitation from the arecanut growing areas from the different quarters of the State by way of Memorials and deputations to the Government. Of course, we all know that the Government have come into line with certain duties and taxations which the Government of India under emergency measures raise. But our Government is not so powerless as not to use their good influence with the Government of India. The arecanut cultivation in our State is mainly in the northern half of our State, north of the Chalakkudi River. The arecanut cultivation in this area and the area comprising the south of the Ponnani River in the Ponnani Taluk is exposed to the land wind which generally commences in the middle half of October and ends by the end of February, blowing through Palghat gap. The cultivation in this area is entirely different from that in any other area in India. The Government of Cochin ought to bring to the notice of the authorities concerned this fact. There must be a special exception for areas comprised in this State. As regards the area in the Ponnani Taluk is concerned it is the duty of the Madras Government. But the major part of the area is in our State. The arecanut grower has to water the arecanut trees from the beginning of November or atleast from the second half of November till the monsoon comes in June. That is an additional expenditure. Then we have to manure these trees because natural manuring facilities never exist in this particular area as in all other parts in India where arecanut is grown, it grows wild on the banks of rivers where there are ample facilities for moisture and also manure flowing down from the hills through the rivers. All these disadvantages the grower of arecanut has in our State. So the Government ought to bring to the notice of the Government of India the peculiar plight of the arecanut growers in our State in that respect.

Then I may raise this point also. The price of arecanut began to soar up only before one and half years, that is after the fall of Singapore and even after the fall of Singapore it took nearly one year to finish the existing stock. Now we are coming to the end of war and even if the war in the east is going to take some more time the capture of Singapore is not very distant. Even in areas which the allied arms have captured in Burma large areas of arecanut plantations exist and within six months we can expect arecanut imports into India from Burma and we may also expect arecanut imports from Singapore and Malaya States. Then naturally the price ought to go down. It is only during a short period that the arecanut grower has benefitted a little and during that period all these difficulties arise but the Controller of Priorities has fixed a priority rank as rank No. 9. The House and Government ought to bear in mind that rank is allotted to gravel and other things. It is in that rank that arecanut is put. It is considered to be a sort of food-stuff, the luxury of the poor man. The Government is realising a high duty from this commodity. In spite of all these the controller of priorities—as far as my information goes—has not been good enough to raise the rank of priority to atleast 6 under which comes pulses. The actual contention of the Government and this House ought to be that it ought to be raised up to the level of tea or coffee from which commodities the same amount of tax is being collected. I request that the Government of India may be approached to raise the rank of priority for the export of arecanut to 6, or still higher if possible. In addition to that I may also request the Government that they will be pleased to address the Government of India that the method of taxation or rather the rate of taxation as far as our State is concerned ought to be in a different ratio or at a lesser rate than in other parts of India because of the high maintenance charges which the arecanut grower has to meet in our State. With these few words I beg to draw the attention of the Government to this important subject.

***Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri)*: Sir, I wish also to put in a word or two on this subject to urge upon the Government to do all that is necessary that the hardship which the arecanut grower is sufferring from is alleviated to some extent atleast. Of course we had been promised—we are thankful for the Government for the promise—that the matter will be taken with the Government of India to see that atleast the rate of taxation namely 2 annas in the pound will atleast be reduced. We are aware of the fact, Sir, that our Government is either if they do not impose this tax or if they impose a tax less than what is imposed in British India will not be helpful to the Cochin arecanut grower in as much as an equal amount will be collected

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member

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by the British authorities when the commodity is taken over there. We fully appreciate that. But the question though bristling with these difficulties is a question which has to be tackled and tackled at the earliest opportunity and with all the force and fervour at the command of our Government to see that our poor arecanut growers do not suffer arecanut growers, Sir, it may well be remembered, are not either rich people or middle class people. They do not even belong to the lower section of the middle class. They are practically poor people owning their own lands, owning other mens' lands on Verumpattam and making this cultivation and all the diffculties of cultivation enumerated by my Hon'ble friend the Member for Kunnamkulam, an arecanut area, do exist and because of the dearth of labour and high cost of manure the difficulties are increarsed ten-fold. All these facts had been placed through a memorandum and a memorial before the Diwan who had been pleased to assure us that the matter would be taken up. As far as this manuring process is concerned it may be worth while for the Government to note that the *arecanut thops* have not been watered as they ought to be watered and as they used to be watered in previous days because of this high cost. There are instances—I am not exaggerating, Sir—of arecanut growers having cut and removed arecanut plants because one arecanut tree in the market now fetches between one and two ruppees. Instead of having about 500 nuts on the tree after spending a lot of money upon it and paying the duty and realising after all these deductions the low price which is dictated by the *Assamies* from the foreign markets who flock to these markets ours it is profitable, though a short-sighted policy to cut and remove the tree and sell it. That is going on in the Talapalli Taluk and I know very many instances.

That is going in the Talappalli Taluk. I know of very many instances. There is a compound there, Sir, in which as many as 500 trees, one whole block has been cut and sold that is the situation in which the poor arecanut grower is placed. That is a matter which has to be taken up. We know our Government by themselves cannot do practically anything in the matter. Therefore this may be immediately taken up.

Then with regard to the priority of transport and the supply of waggons. That is another factor which has to be borne in mind. I understand Sir, that the bulk of arecanut that used to come from Pazhanji to the Vadakkancheri Station is taken to Pattambi, Malabar Railway Station, with the result that the income or the charges of transport from Vadakkancheri to Shoranur, a portion of it which ought to go to us is practically denied to us. It is that aspect we have to consider. I also understand that Pattambi which has not got as much of traffic as Vadakkancheri is given a larger supply of waggons than Vadakkancheri. I find in the Vadakkancheri Railway Station during the flourishing times large stock of arecanuts with no space for passenger to move about and kept there on account of the difficulties of transport. These are matters in which Government ought to do whatever possible at the earliest possible opportunity, before it dies out from the economic system of the State, otherwise, let me not be misunderstood as throwing out a threat the arecanut grower, not only the grower but the tree is going to vanish from the State. That is the way in which the question has to be looked at.

*Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukav)*: I have to make one observation, a suggestion, to the the Government for acceptance. According to this definition when one fruit is plucked down from the tree it becomes cured arecanut. It may not be too much for me to bring to the notice of the Government that one rupee and two annas is not anything which could be fetched by actual sale.

No doubt I quite realise lately that it is not so stringently enforced. But still it is not out of the hands of the Government to impose. I respectfully would pray that, that definitions may be so altered as to bring in the terms cured nuts which is so called by the processes of cutting a coasting made an article of trade. Than the word will have a bearing and that sense may be made to bear upon the fruit instead of simple plucking of the fruit from the tree. That is my humble suggestion which I place before the Government.

*മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: സർ, അടക്കയ്ക്ക് നികുതി ചുമത്തിയപ്പോൾ അതു് ഏതുവിധത്തിലാണ് ഇവിടെ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതു് എന്നു് മനസ്സിലാക്കാതെ, അധീശ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ നിയമം നേരെ ഇവിടെ പകർത്തുകയാണ് ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് ചെയ്തതു്. കാപ്പി, ചായ മുതലായതിനു ധാരാളം പ്രയത്നം കൃഷിക്കാർ ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടു്. അടക്കാ കൃഷിക്കാരും ധാരാളം പ്രയത്നം ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ അടക്ക ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതു് കട പറിച്ചെടുക്കുന്നതൊ, കടക്കൽ കായ്ക്കുന്നതൊ, അതൊ തലയ്ക്കൽ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതൊ എങ്ങിനെയാണ് അതു് ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതെന്നു്

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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ആലോചിക്കുവാനുള്ള തന്റേടം നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനു ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ ഈ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനെ അറിയിച്ചു അടക്കാ നികുതി ഒഴിവാക്കുവാൻ പരിശ്രമിക്കുമായിരുന്നു. നികുതി ചുമത്തീട്ടുള്ളതിൽതന്നെ വളരെ വ്യത്യാസമുണ്ടു്. ൧൦൦ പഴക്ക അടക്കക്കു് അഞ്ചണയോ, അഞ്ചുകാലണയൊ ഡ്യൂട്ടി വരുന്നുണ്ടു്. ൧൯൪൩-ം ചിലപ്പോൾ ൧൨൬൦ വരെയും പങ്ക അടക്ക വെട്ടി ഉണക്കിയാലാണു് ഒരു റാത്തൽ കളിഅടക്ക ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതു്. അതിനു് രണ്ടണ ഡ്യൂട്ടിയാണു് ചുമത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ ഈ പങ്ക അടക്ക മുത്തു പഴത്തുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ ൧൦൦-ക്കു് ൫ ണ. യൊ, ൬¼ ണ. യൊ ഡ്യൂട്ടി കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായി വരുന്നു. ഒരു റാത്തൽ അടക്കക്കു് ഈ പഴത്ത അടക്ക ചിലപ്പോൾ ൧൦൦ എണ്ണം വേണ്ടിവരികയില്ല. കളിഅടക്ക ൧൯൪൩ മുതൽ ൧൨൬൦ വരെ പങ്ക അടക്ക വെട്ടിയാണു് ഒരു റാത്തൽ കളിയടക്ക ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതു്. ഈ തത്വം മനസ്സിലാക്കാതെയാണു് ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് അടക്കക്കു് നികുതി ചുമത്തീട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഇതുമൂലംകൊണ്ടു് കൃഷിക്കാക്ക പറഞ്ഞീട്ടുള്ള നഷ്ടവും, നാശവും എത്രയാണെന്നു് പറഞ്ഞറിയിക്കുവാൻതന്നെ വളരെ പ്രയാസമായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇപ്പോൾ കൊണ്ടു് തേവുന്നതിനു് ൫൦ ക. മുതൽ ൩൦ ക. വരെ കൂലി കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടു വരുന്നുണ്ടു്. വളം, ഉടകില, നനകൂലി മുതലായവയ്ക്കു് ചിലവാകുന്ന സംഖ്യയും. ഇപ്പോൾ ചുമത്തീട്ടുള്ള നികുതിക്കുവേണ്ടിവരുന്ന സംഖ്യയുംകൂടി നോക്കിയാൽ അടക്കാകൃഷിക്കാക്കു് ബാക്കി അവരുടെ പ്രയത്നകൂലി ഒന്നുംതന്നെ കിട്ടുവാനുണ്ടാവുകയില്ല. വളമാണെങ്കിൽ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് കൺട്രോൾചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറയും, കൺട്രോൾ ഏട്ടിലെ പശു മാത്രമാണു്. ൧൦൦ പാട്ട വെണ്ണീർ കിട്ടണമെങ്കിൽ ൩൫ ക. മുതൽ ൪൦ ക. വരെ വില കൊടുക്കണം. ഇങ്ങിനെയെല്ലാം പ്രയത്നംചെയ്തു് അടക്ക കൃഷിചെയ്താൽ നികുതി കൊടുക്കുവാൻമാത്രമെ കിട്ടുവുള്ളുവെങ്കിൽ, കൊണ്ടു് എല്ലാം പറിച്ചുകളഞ്ഞു മറ്റുവല്ലകൃഷിയും ചെയ്യുകയായിരിക്കും നല്ലതെന്നു കൃഷിക്കാർ വിചാരിക്കാനിടയുണ്ടെന്നു് ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനു ബുദ്ധിയുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കും. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട വടക്കാഞ്ചേരി മെമ്പർ, ജനങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ടു് മുറിച്ചെടുക്കുവാൻ തുടങ്ങീട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു് പറഞ്ഞതു് ശരിയാണു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ: കൊള്ളി വെക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ ?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: രാജ്യം മുഴുവനും കൊള്ളിവെച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടല്ലൊ. അതുപോലെ ആയിട്ടുണ്ടു് ഇതിന്റെ സ്ഥിതിയും. യുദ്ധാനന്തര കാലങ്ങളിൽ ജനങ്ങളെ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്തുവാൻ ഇതു് പയ്യാപ്പമായി തീരുന്നതാണു്. അതിന്നിടവരുത്താതെ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് രക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. വളരെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകൂടാതെ കൃഷിചെയ്യുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന കാപ്പിക്കും, ചായക്കും, ഡ്യൂട്ടിനിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതുപോലെ വളരെ പണവും കായക്ലേശവുംചെയ്തുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന അടക്കക്കു് നികുതി ചുമത്തുവാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനോടു് അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നതു്. തൃശ്ശിവപേരൂർ താലൂക്ക, തലപ്പിള്ളി താലൂക്കു്, മുകുന്ദപുരം താലൂക്കു്, എന്നീ മൂന്നു താലൂക്കുകളിലേക്കാണു് ഈ നികുതി ചുമത്തൽകൊണ്ടു് ദോഷങ്ങൾ ബാധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. അവിടങ്ങളിൽ വളരെ കവുങ്ങുകൾ ഉണങ്ങിനില്ക്കുന്ന കാഴ്ച ഗവണ്മെണ്ടുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ കാറിൽ സഞ്ചരിക്കുമ്പോൾ കാണുവാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ല. എന്നാൽ കാൽനടയായി നടക്കുന്ന ഞങ്ങൾക്കു് ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ഇത്തരം സംഭവങ്ങൾ നേരിട്ടു മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കും. ഗവണ്മെണ്ടുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലേക്കു ക്ഷണിക്കുന്നു. ദയവുചെയ്തു അവർ വരികയാണെങ്കിൽ ചില കൊണ്ടുംതോട്ടങ്ങൾ നനക്കാൻ സാധിക്കാതെ ഉണങ്ങിനില്ക്കുന്ന കാഴ്ച ഞാൻ കാണിച്ചു കൊടുക്കാവുന്നതാണു്. ഇനി ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് ഈ ഡ്യൂട്ടി വേണ്ടായെന്നുവെച്ചുവരുമ്പോൾ കൊണ്ടും ഇല്ലാതാകും. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ വിഷമങ്ങൾ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു തീർത്തുകൊടുത്തിട്ടില്ലെങ്കിൽ കൊണ്ടു് എന്നൊരു ഇനം ഈ നാട്ടിൽ ഇല്ലാതായിതീരുന്നതാണു്. ഇത്ര കടുപ്പമേറിയ ഒരു നിയമം ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് ഏർപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടതായിട്ടില്ല. ഇമ്പീരിയൽ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് നടപ്പിലാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള സംഗതികളിൽ ഒരു സംഗതിമാത്രമാണു് കൊച്ചിക്കാർ മുഴുവൻ അനുകരിക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ബാക്കിയുള്ള എല്ലാ സംഗതികളും ഇവിടെ അനുകരിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഈ അനുകരണക്രമം വളരെ മോശമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്. ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ മറവുള്ള ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് ഉണ്ടാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള നിയമത്തെ അതെപടി ഇവിടെ അനുകരിക്കാതെ ഇവിടത്തെ കവുങ്ങുകൃഷിയേയും, കൃഷിക്കാരേയും സംരക്ഷിക്കേണമെന്നു് ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനോടു വളരെ സങ്കടത്തോടുകൂടി അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. മൂന്നു താലൂക്കുകളിലാണു് ഇതുകൊണ്ടുള്ള നാശങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതു്. ഇത്രമാത്രമാണു് എനിക്കു ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനോടു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. ഇതു് വളരെ Hard ആയിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു സംഗതിയാണെന്നുള്ളതു് ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് മറക്കരുതു്.

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**Mr. K. T. Achuthan** *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* I need not repeat what has been stated by the Hon'ble Member for Mukundapuram—Ezhuvas. This is a very serious question which affects a number of cultivators. When I say that one rupee or 12 annas is to be taken as tax on one para of paddy, members who are not acquainted with the cultivation of arecanuts will know that the rate that is imposed on the arecanuts is as exhorbitant as it will be if the above rate is imposed as tax on one para of paddy. The Hon'ble Member for Mukundapuram—Ezhuvas was saying that 10 annas is the price of 100 arecanuts. So out of 10 annas, 5 annas goes to the Government and the balance alone goes to the actual cultivator. If this duty continues, cultivators have stated that they will totally abandon this arecanut cultivation and they have asked me to represent the matter to the Government. If some change is not made before the next monsoon, they will abandon that cultivation and will begin to cultivate some other. That is the situation. Merely writing to the Government of India won't do. Government must depute some one to go there and even to represent the Cochin State and make them understand the actual situation. The cost of cultivation, manuring and even the cost of cattle has gone up. The price of a pair of bullocks is more than three hundred rupees. Moreover the cultivators are not organised for successful agitation. They cannot easily bring the facts to the notice of the Central Government. So the whole responsibility lies on the Government of Cochin and unless the Government awakens before the situation becomes serious, it will be very hard. If the Government tries to do something in the matter, it will be a great help to the cultivators.

**Mr. C. J. Mathew** *(Joint Secretary to Government):* As regards transport facilities, I have already informed this House that Government are aware of the difficulty and that they have addressed the transport authorities in the matter. Two or three letters have been sent and very strong representations have been made urging for priority, but the Controller of Transport does not agree. I am sure they won't grant the same rank of priority as in the case of pulses and other food grains. But still the Government are pressing for getting better priority than what is obtained now. Every effort is being made in that direction. The Hon'ble Members may rest assured that everything possible will be done.

Then comes the question of the hardship caused by the incidence of taxation. This matter also is receiving the most earnest consideration of the Government. They are making a thorough investigation into the various complaints received. The Director of Agriculture and the Commissioner of Excise have been asked to examine the question in all its details and submit reports. After necessary statistics are collected, our Government intend to address the Government of India in the matter. The various points brought to the attention of this House by the Hon'ble Members who spoke on the subject will be duly considered and a strong case will be made out to the Government of India to revise the rate, if not to abolish the tax altogether.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri):* Please accelerate the speed.

**Mr. C. J. Mathew** *(Joint Secretary to Government):* The speed is being accelerated. I expect the report to be ready shortly.

A third point has been raised by Mr. Narayana Menon in the course of discussion. He said that according to the definition of the term 'Cured', screen raw nuts plucked from the tree are subject to the levy of tax. This is true. But we cannot adopt here in this State a different phraseology and different definition. We have to adopt whatever is adopted by the British Government. We have adopted the Government of India definition. However, I understand there is more in British Malabar to execlude from the levy of duty nuts intended for actual consumption. That is, if the nuts are intended for consumption and not for sale, they will not be taxed.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: എന്നാൽ ഇവിടെ ടാക്സ് ചെയ്യുന്നതെങ്ങനെയാണ്?

**Mr. C. J. Mathew** *(Joint Secretary to Government):* It is now being taxed. I understand that there is a possibility of a circular being issued in Malabar, excluding items meant for actual consumption from the levy of duty. According to it, nuts plucked for the purpose of consumption will not be taxed, but if it is used for other purpose, then it will be taxed.

The Hon'ble Member Mr. Panicker happaned to observe during the course of the discussion that if Cochin State had a good and wise Government, they would not have agreed to the levy of this tax. This is a most eroneous statement. The growers of betel nut trees in the State would not have benefitted in the least even if the Government had not agreed to levy the tax, because over 90 per cent of betel nuts grown in the area exported from the State to British India and there they would certainly be taxed. Thus, if they escaped taxation here, that does not give

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them any relief at all. They have to pay it in British India instead. That is all the difference. But if the levy is made at the source, that is to say, if the tax is levied in the State we would get a reasonable proportion of it to the State from the common pool. On the other hand, if no levy is made here, the entire amount will go to British India and we should not get any share at all. It is therefore, only reasonable and prudent that we should agree to levy the tax here as the State definitely stands to gain that arrangement, while the grower is not put to any the greater hardship thereby. I therefore fully hope the House will not be misguided in the matter by the eroneous observations made by Mr. Panicker.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്". പണിക്കർ: ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതു് ഫസ്റ്റ് മുതൽ ഫൈവ് വരെ പണ്ടു അടക്ക വെട്ടിയുണക്കിയാണു് ഒരു റാത്തൽ കളിയടക്ക ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതെന്നാണു്. എന്നാൽ ഫൈവ് പഴക്കടക്കക്ക് $2\frac{1}{2}$ണ. നികുതി കൊടുക്കേണ്ടിവരുന്നുണ്ടു്.

**Mr. C. J. Mathew** *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: The calculation is for 100 nuts. It is considered equivalent to $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. so the tax on 100 nuts will come to 5 annas.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ എസ്സ്". പണിക്കർ: തൊണ്ടോടുകൂടിയല്ലേ അടക്ക തൂക്കം കണക്കാക്കുന്നതു്?

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ജെ. മാത്യു: തൊണ്ടോടുകൂടിയാൽ മാത്രമേ പഴക്കടക്കയാവുകയുള്ളൂ.

*Demand put and carried*

**55. Rs. 350 under "32—Industries (Reserved)—T. A."**

**Mr. C. J. Mathew** *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: I move for an additional allotment of Rs. 350 under "32—Industries (Reserved)—T. A." There are 2 Inspectors among the additional staff sanctioned for the administration of the Paper Control Orders. In order to meet the T. A. of these Inspectors an additional allotment of Rs. 350 was moved and passed in the last meeting of the Legislative Council. This will suffice to meet the T. A. of one Inspector only. To meet the T. A. of the other Inspector an amount of Rs. 350 more is required. Hence an additional allotment of Rs. 350 is necessary.

*Demand put and carried*

**56. Rs. 650 under "32—Industries (Reserved)—Miscellaneous"**

**Mr. C. J. Mathew** *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: I move for an additional allotment of Rs. 650 under "32—Industries (Reserved)—Miscellaneous". Sanction has been accorded to purchase a type-writer for the Office of the Director of Industries and Commerce at a cost of Rs. 605. The Director has also taken a type-writer for hire till the purchase of the machine In order to pay the hire for 3 months an amount of Rs. 45 is necessary. There is no provision to meet these items of expenditure in the current year's budget. Hence this additional allotment of Rs. 650 is necessary under the above head.

*Demand put and carried*

**57. Rs. 726 under "1 - Land Revenue—(*f*)—Temporary Establishment"**

**58. Rs. 120 under "1—Land Revenue—B (*h*)—Consolidated T.A."**

**59. Rs. 288 under "1—Land Revenue—B (*c*)—Dearness Allowance"**

**Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu** *(Diwan Peishkar)*: Sir, I beg to move the next three items to-gether. Rs. 726 under "1; Land Revenue— (*f*) Temporary Establishment", Rs. 120 under "1—Land Revenue—Consolidated T.A." and Rs. 288 under "1—Land Revenue—B(*c*) Dearness Allowance,'. To cope with the increase of work in the Revenue Department due to the taking up of the Mullurkayal Irrigation Scheme, a temporary staff consisting of a Revenue Inspector on Rs. 60 plus a consolidated T.A. of Rs. 15, 2 clerks on Rs. 25-40 and a peon on Rs. 11 have been sanctioned for a period of one year. These additional allotments of Rs. 726, 120 and 288 are to cover the pay, the consolidated T.A. and the Dearness Allowance of the staff. I request that these items may be granted.

*Demands put and carried*

**60. Rs. 1,140 under "1—Land Revenue—A (*f*)—Temporary Establishment"**

**61. Rs. 432 under "1—Land Revenue—B (*c*)—Dearness Allowance"**

**Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu** *(Diwan Peishkar)*: I beg to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 1140 under "1—Land Revenue—A (*f*) Temporary establishment" and Rs. 432 under

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